**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

**Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

**ERIC RAFF
DIRECTOR**

1602 ROLLING HILLS DRIVE, SUITE 203
HENRICO, VIRGINIA 23229-5012

(804) 662-9502 (V)
(800) 552-7917 (V)
(804) 325-1290 (VP)
(804) 662-9718 (FAX)
www.VDDHH.org

**POLICY STATEMENT
Virginia Quality Assurance Screening
Candidate Eligibility Policy**

**Definitions:** For purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply:

"Candidate" refers to any person who has applied to take the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening (VQAS).

"Coordinator" refers to the Coordinator of the VQAS at the Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH).

"Screening" means the Virginia Quality Assurance Screening.

"Screening level" means the level of competency awarded to an interpreter who has successfully satisfied the minimum standards established for VQAS.

"VQAS" means Virginia Quality Assurance Screening, which is designed to assess interpreting and transliterating skills of interpreters who facilitate communication between persons who are deaf or hard of hearing and persons who are hearing and is administered by the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

**Background:** This policy document establishes *eligibility criteria* for candidates applying to take the VQAS. The VQAS assessment is conducted by VDDHH in accordance with Administrative Code 22VAC20-30-10 to provide information and referrals to the public in the Commonwealth of Virginia regarding qualified interpreters. The VQAS was therefore intended to provide assessment and diagnostic feedback to interpreter candidates who live, work, or an attend interpreter training program (ITP) in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Policy Statement:** To be eligible to register for and take a VQAS Written or Performance Assessment, a Candidate must be able to provide documentation verifying that they live, work, or attend an ITP in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Policy Details:**
- Candidates must be able to provide eligibility verification documentation to the VQAS Coordinator upon request as part of the assessment registration process.
- Suitable eligibility verification documentation proving that a Candidate lives, works, or attends an ITP in Virginia includes but is not limited to current: valid government issued identification, tax return or employer issued tax form, voter registration, utility bill, proof of

Effective 5/10/24

current college enrollment, or verification letter from employer. Other documentation may be considered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the of the Director or the Interpreter Services Manager.

**Procedures:**

- Candidates wishing to take the VQAS for the first time must contact the VQAS Coordinator at vqas@vddhh.virginia.gov and must provide eligibility verification documentation and request the creation of a new Candidate account in the VQAS database and online registration system. Alternatively, the VQAS Coordinator can be contacted at 800-552-7917. Any new candidate who cannot provide verification of their eligibility will not be allowed to register for or take any future VQAS Written or Performance assessment session.

- Existing Candidates (those who already have a Candidate account, and who also have a current valid VQAS Written passing score or current valid VQAS Performance Level award dating from an assessment session occurring June 30, 2024 or before) must be able to provide eligibility verification documentation upon request in order to register for and take any future VQAS Written or Performance assessment session.

  If an existing Candidate (those who already have a Candidate account, and who also have a current valid VQAS Written passing score or current valid VQAS Performance Level award dating from an assessment session occurring June 30, 2024 or before) cannot provide eligibility verification documentation, they *will be allowed register for or take the VQAS Performance Assessment **only once more** before December 31, 2027*. After December 31, 2027, ineligible Candidate applicants will not be allowed to register for or take future Assessment sessions. This will allow a transition period for Candidates who have become ineligible to phase out of the VQAS program.

**Forms:** Completion of a New Candidate intake form and/or an Interpreter Assessment Registration System online form may be required. Other documentation may be required.

**Reference:** Administrative Code 22VAC20-30-10

**Approved:** April 9, 2024

**Effective Date:** May 10, 2024